

## The Community Fridge

### What is a Community Fridge?

A community fridge is a space where local residents can share and access surplus food, including donations from local food businesses.

### Is the Community Fridge the same as the Food Bank?

No, The Food bank provides non-perishable, in-date food, donated by the public at a range of places, and collection points. It is then sorted into emergency food parcels by volunteers to be given to people in crisis.

People in crises can be referred by care professional, such as Health Visitors, staff at schools and social workers and receive a food bank voucher. There is a limited number of visits that a household can make within a certain time period.

The Community Fridge provides 'just in date' and surplus food which are still very consumable. It is open for everyone and can be anonymous. There are many community fridges, and each Community Fridge is different.

### Why are there Community Fridges?

The Community Fridge is set up to stop unnecessary food waste. The average household throws away £470 worth of food every year and at the same time four million people in the UK are living in food poverty. Most food waste in the UK (4.1 million tonnes or 61%) is avoidable and could have been eaten had it been better managed. Community Fridges are one tried and tested way of stopping good food ending up in the bin.

### Where is the food coming from?

UK supermarkets have signed up a UK government pledge to help halve food waste by 2030. Most big retailers provide surplus food to schemes such as *Fareshare*, where we will get most of the surplus food from.

We also receive surplus food from our local groceries, such as the Co-op and other shops.

### Do you take donations from members of the public?

We can take donated food which is still within its **use by date** and still sealed (unopened) in its original packaging. If it's loose fruit or vegetables, then these still need to be fresh.

### Can I still eat the food after the 'use by date'?

Most food with '**best before**' dates is perfectly good to eat once they have gone past this date. Foods with '**use by**' dates can be eaten (and most can be frozen) up until the use by date, but not after. For more information see: [www.hubbub.org.uk/know-your-food-labels-to-save-money](http://www.hubbub.org.uk/know-your-food-labels-to-save-money).

### Is it safe?

The Community Fridge will operate to the highest quality standards, following strict guidelines based on advice from the Food Standards Authority and the local Council's Environmental Health Team. The fridge will be monitored regularly and have a regular cleaning rota. If you have any concerns please contact a member of staff.

**Do you also have other items, such as toiletries, nappies and pet food?**

We never know beforehand what will be donated to the Community Fridge. It depends on the kind of surplus of the supermarkets. However, sometimes we can ask for certain products, especially when there is demand for it.

**Do you have alcohol or cigarettes?**

No, we do not provide alcohol and cigarettes.

**Does it cost your organisation anything?**

We pay a small amount to Fareshare for their admin and delivery costs. All products are free. Fife Council funded this amount initially. We might ask for a small membership fee in the future to make this scheme sustainable.

**Are there other Community Fridges?**

Yes, there are many more community fridges popping up. Within North East Fife they are in Tayport, Cupar, Anstruther, Crail. There are a few in Dundee as well.

**Do I have to live in Tayport to access the Tayport Community Fridge?**

No, the Community Fridge is for everyone from anywhere.

**Do you take volunteers?**

Yes! With volunteers the Community Fridge can be open more often. It would be fantastic if the Community Fridge is run by people of the local community for the local community.

There are little and big tasks to do at the Community Fridge. Come and ask a member of staff for more information. We can arrange for training on food safety and hygiene.

**When are you open?**

The Community Fridge at the Larick Centre is open every Friday 2-5pm. Please bring your own shopping bag if possible.